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POLITICAL FEATURE 1-1691
JEFFREY SANDMANN

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JOSEPH SISCO: DIPLOMAT TO UNIVERSITY HEAD
(TAPE INSERT IN TAPE LIBRARY)

ANNCR:

IN WASHINGTON, A FORMER U-S UNDERSECRETARY OF STATE FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS HAS BECOME THE NEW PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY. VOA'S JEFFREY SANDMANN HAS DETAILS.

VOICE:

JOSEPH SISCO IS A FAMILIAR NAME AND FACE IN THE CAPITALS OF
THE MIDDLE EAST. AS THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S UNDERSECRETARY FOR
POLITICAL AFFAIRS, HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING SECRETARY OF
STATE KISSINGER WORK OUT THE AGREEMENTS WHICH NOW FORM THE BASIS
FOR PEACE IN THAT TROUBLED REGION OF THE WORLD. BUT ON THURSDAY
THE FORMER STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL WAS IN THE PALE BLUE GARB
OF A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT -- AND AT THE AGE OF FIFTY-SIX -- WAS
BEGINNING A NEW CAREER AS HEAD OF THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY, A
PRIVATE INSTITUTION HERE IN WASHINGTON.

MISTER SISCO SPENT TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AS A CAREER DIPLOMAT --
YEARS HE CALLED DEMANDING, SATISFYING AND REWARDING. "I HAVE
BEEN FORTUNATE," HE TOLD A CROWD OF UNIVERSITY FACULTY, STUDENTS
AND DIGNATARIES, "TO SERVE OUR GOVERNMENT AND OUR COUNTRY." AND
HE WENT ON --

TAPE: CUT ONE -- SISCO

"I COME TO THIS GREAT UNIVERSITY FROM THE WORLD OF ACTION. I
BRING NO DOGMATIC PRECONCEPTIONS. I BRING NO FORMAL THEORIES.
BUT I DO COME WITH A DETERMINATION THAT THIS UNIVERSITY MUST HAVE
GOALS THAT TRANSCEND SURVIVAL. FOR THIS UNIVERSITY, AS FOR ANY
OTHER, MERE SURVIVAL MEANS MEDIOCRITY, STAGNATION AND DEGRADATION.
ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE, WE HAVE MOVED FROM AN ERA OF ATOMIC
SUPREMACY THROUGH THE COLD WAR TO FRAGILE DETENTE. WHEN WE SPEAK
OF SURVIVAL OF MANKIND, IT IS NO LONGER A FIGURE OF SPEECH. IT
HAS BECOME AN OPERATIONAL IMPERATIVE."

VOICE:

IN THE AUDIENCE WERE DIPLOMATS FROM MORE THAN THIRTY COUNTRIES AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM AMERICA'S ACADEMIC COMMUNITY. ON THE STAGE WITH MISTER SISCO WERE THE CHIEF JUSTICE OF THE UNITED STATES, WARREN BURGER -- AND ANOTHER DISTINGUISHED AMERICAN DIPLOMAT -- AVERELL HARRIMAN. BOTH MEN LATER RECEIVED HONORARY DEGREES FROM MISTER SISCO.

ALSO SEATED IN THE AUDIENCE -- JUST A FEW FEET FROM THE SPEAKER'S PLATFORM -- SAT MISTER SISCO'S FORMER BOSS -- SECRETARY OF STATE KISSINGER.

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